

DTC buses for Schools

289. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a circular issued by DTC to all the schools in NCT hiring its buses for commuting the students, wherein the DTC has informed withdrawal of its buses being provided for commuting the students, *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2001 and the consequential difficulties to school going children, particularly of primary classes; and

(b) whether Government would take up this matter with Delhi Government for continuation of present system of providing buses to schools by DTC after 31st March, 2001; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A circular has been issued in pursuance of a Supreme Court directive that no diesel buses will be permitted to operate *w.e.f.* 1.4.2001.

(b) Delhi Government have intimated that approximately only 15% of the children are affected on account of withdrawal of DTC buses. It is so since the school children going to Government and Government-aided schools are not being provided public transport as the schools function on neighbourhood concept which does not require transport for children. They have further intimated that DTC is being used only by an estimated 15% school children studying in private schools. Currently, out of 5471 schools (as per statistics of 1997-98), the number of such schools is 957, constituting 17.4% of the total number of schools. Most of these private schools have either their own transport arrangement or they hire private buses. Currently, only 850 buses are provided by DTC. Delhi Government have further intimated that these 15% children studying in the private schools and the school authorities concerned along with parents are to make alternative arrangements for transporting children till the DTC is able to provide requisite number of CNG-run buses.